

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14326

DEA FOR CUSACK/EOI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: OPRED/NARCOTICS: JUSTICE/DEA PROPOSALS

REF: A. STATE 183109

B. STATE 184951

1. THE MISSION HAS REVIEWED AGAIN THE PROPOSALS FOR AUGMENTATION OF DEA STAFF AND CONCLUDED: (A) THAT THE PERSONNEL REQUESTED WILL INDEED BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE JOINT RTG-US ANTI-NARCOTIC EFFORT, AND (B) THAT THE THAI OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RTG ANTI-NARCOTIC PROGRAM UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THE INCREASES AND NOT ONLY FULLY SUPPORT THE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS BUT IN MANY CASES HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THIS ADDITIONAL HELP. AN EMBASSY OFFICER FIRST REVIEWED THESE PROPOSALS WITH SPECIAL COLONEL CHAVALIT YODMANEE, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD, ON APRIL 17 AT WHICH TIME CHAVALIT WAS UNEQUIVOCAL IN HIS SUPPORT FOR THE DEA ADDITIONS. THE SUBJECT WAS AGAIN DISCUSSED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER WITH CHAVALIT ON AUGUST 28. CHAVALIT REAFFIRMED AT THAT TIME THAT THE RESPONSIBLE RTG OFFICIALS SUPPORTED THIS INCREMENT.

2. THE MISSION NARCOTICS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, DCM MASTERS, MET WITH POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD, SEPTEMBER 4 TO MAKE FORMAL THE

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UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RTG ACCEPTS AND WELCOMES THIS DEA

PERSONNEL INCREASE. PHAO REITERATED ASSURANCES PREVIOUSLY MADE BY CHAVALIT, BUT ADDED ONE CAVEAT: THAT IF HE WERE TO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A SPECIFIC DEA EMPLOYEE WAS NOT WORKING OUT SATISFACTORILY IN THE THAI ENVIRONMENT, HE WOULD SO INFORM US WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THE EMPLOYEE WOULD BE TRANSFERRED OUT OF THAILAND IMMEDIATELY. THE DCM AGREED.

3. REFTEL A EXPLAINED THAT DEA IS REQUESTING FOR THAILAND NINE NEW ENFORCEMENT POSITIONS, SIX NEW INTELLIGENCE POSITIONS AND FIVE NEW SUPPORT POSITIONS. IN CONULTATION WITH THE DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WE UNDERSTAND THE SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS OF THE NINE ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL WILL BE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

1 POSITION - THAILAND COUNTRY PROGRAM MANAGER
1 POSITION - BANGKOK NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION CENTER
1 POSITION - METROPOLITAN NARCOTIC UNIT
1 POSITION - POLICE MARINE DIVISION
1 POSITION - CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION SERVICE
1 POSITION - SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT (SEAWALL, ETC.)
1 POSITION - PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING
1 POSITION - TNPd CRIME SUPPRESSION DIVISION
1 POSITION - AVAITION ADVISOR

AT THIS TIME THE EMBASSY DOES NOT DESIRE TO POST ADDITIONAL DEA OFFICERS AT CHIANG MAI OR SONGKHLA. THERE ARE NOW FOUR DEA OFFICERS AT CHIANG MAI AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THESE ARE ADEQUATE TO MEET PRESENT REQUIREMENTS IN THIS AREA. THE EMBASSY MAINTAINS THE SAME POSITION REGARDING THE POSTING OF A THIRD DEA PERSON AT SONGKHLA. THE NEW DEA OFFICE AT SONGKHLA IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 15 WITH AN AUTHORIZED COMPLEMENT OF TWO DEA SPECIAL AGENTS. THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT AFTER SIX MONTHS OF OPERATION IN SOUTHERN THAILAND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ASSESS BOTH THE EFFECTIVENESS AND SUITABILITY OF THIS OPERATION. BASED ON THIS ASSESSMENT EMBASSY WILL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO ESTIMATE THE NET VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ADDING A THIRD POSITION. REFTEL B ADVISED THAT IN ADDITION TO EIGHT POSITIONS ORGINALLY IDENTIFIED THERE IS ADDITIONAL SLOT FOR AVIATION ADVISOR. THIS POSITION IS ALREADY FILLED BY WILLIAM WHITE EMPLOYED AT BANGKOK BY DEA ON A PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT.

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4. THE EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF SIX ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE POSITIONS AND CONCLUDES THAT A 200 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PRESENT STAFFING OF THREE IS NOT JUSTIFIED AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE POSITIONS BE LIMITED TO THREE FOR A TOTAL STAFFING OF SIX TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE BANGKOK REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT.

5. THE EMBASSY APPROVES THE ADDITION OF FIVE NEW SUPPORT PER-

SONNEL WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE SLOTS ARE TO BE FILLED LOCALLY BY HIRING U.S. DEPENDENTS, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GOAL OF KEEPING THE U.S. PRESENCE TO A MINIMUM. THE EMBASSY CONCURS IN DEA BANGKOK SUGGESTION THAT THREE ADDITIONAL FSL SLOTS BE AUTHORIZED FOR THAILAND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANDED PROGRAM.

6. IN SUMMARY, THE EMBASSY APPROVES INCREASES CONSISTING OF EIGHT ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AGENTS, CONTINUATION OF AVIATION ADVISOR ON PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT, THREE INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL, FIVE SUPPORT (CLERICAL) PERSONNEL AND THREE FSL. LASTLY, WE AGAIN NOTE THE UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH OF THE NEW POSITIONS WILL BE STRINGENTLY REVIEWED PRIOR TO THE END OF TWO-YEAR PERIOD TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS STILL REQUIRED. KINTNER

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